

Notice Number: #110-20

Location: Stennis Space Center (SSC), Bay St. Louis, Mississippi

Closing Date: 9/14/2020 (11:59:59 PM (EST))

Command & Location: ONR - NRL SSC DET

Grade: NO-IV/V (GS-13,14,15 equivalent)

Job Type: **Assistant Counsel IP**

The Navy and Marine Corps team offers innovative, exciting and meaningful work linking military and civilian talents to achieve our mission and safeguard our freedoms. The Department of the Navy Office of the General Counsel has been serving the Department since 1941 and is committed to developing innovative legal solutions to the business and other challenges facing the Navy and Marine Corps to enhance the war fighting capability of the Naval Service. You will find our attorneys stationed across the United States and worldwide, working with Navy and Marine Corps personnel wherever the Department's business is conducted.

There is an opening for a patent attorney to serve as an Assistant Counsel within the Intellectual Property (IP) law branch of the Office of Counsel, U.S. Naval Research Laboratory (NRL) within the Office of Counsel, Office of Naval Research. The position is located at NASA's Stennis Space Center (SSC) near Bay St. Louis, Mississippi.

NRL is a premier research facility with cutting-edge research programs in basic sciences and advanced technology development. NRL is the corporate research laboratory for the Navy and Marine Corps and conducts a broad program of scientific research and development of advanced technologies. NRL's Office of Counsel supports these efforts by providing the full range of legal services related to the protection of government developed technologies, technology transfer, and contracting related to technology development.

The incumbent will provide NRL clients a full range of IP services, including drafting and prosecuting patent applications, reviewing research publications for potentially patentable material, and counseling on contract and technology transfer IP matters such as rights in inventions, patents, technical data rights, and computer software. On a more limited basis, incumbents may prepare and prosecute trademark applications, provide litigation support for patent infringement claims, and resolve patent and copyright administrative claims. The ability to work with inventors to identify patentable technology and useful trademarks, develop invention disclosures, and to draft high quality patent applications is desired.

NRL compensation falls under a Personnel Management Demonstration Program. This position is at the NO-IV/V career level in the NRL Demonstration Program. The Program uses career levels (aka, pay bands) for pay setting. At the NO-IV career level, salary will be set equivalent to a GS-13 salary level with salaries ranging from \$90,069 to \$118,822, and at the NO-V pay band, salary will be set equivalent to a GS-14 or GS-15 salary level with salaries ranging from \$106,092 to \$164,858. Career level and pay will be set based on the qualifications of the successful candidate. If the position is filled at the NO-IV career level, the position will have promotion potential to the NO-V level. To be eligible for selection at the GS-13 salary equivalent within the NO-IV career level, the individual must have in

excess of two years of professional legal experience working as a patent attorney. To be eligible for selection at the GS-14 salary equivalent within the NO-V career level, the individual must have three-and-a-half years of professional legal experience working as a patent attorney. To be eligible for selection at the GS-15 salary equivalent within the NO-V career level, the individual must have five-and-a-half years of professional legal experience working as a patent attorney.

Applicants will be evaluated on 1) the depth, breadth and quality of their experience in technical areas related to NRL's research; 2) their corresponding recent and relevant experience preparing and prosecuting patent applications; 3) their oral communication skills and ability to develop a strong attorney-client relationship; 4) their ability to work both independently and as part of a team; 5) their research, analytical, and writing skills; and 6) their interpersonal skills. Applicants with a record of making significant contributions to the advancement of the Department of the Navy, Office of the General Counsel or equivalent Office of the General Counsel or Law Firm/Office beyond the day to day legal practice is desired.

The successful applicant should possess a Bachelor of Science or higher degree in either Electrical Engineering, Computer Science, or Computer Engineering (and corresponding patent application preparation and patent prosecution experience). However, applicants who do not have a degree in Electrical Engineering, Computer Science, or Computer Engineering but have extensive academic or work experience in those fields will also be considered. Additionally, applicants with experience in preparing and prosecuting software patents will also be considered.

The successful applicant must have graduated from a law school that is accredited by the American Bar Association, be an active member in good standing of the bar of the highest court of a State, U.S. Commonwealth, U.S. territory, or the District of Columbia, and be admitted to practice before a state or federal court. U.S. citizenship is a requirement of the position, and the successful applicant must be able to obtain and maintain a SECRET clearance. Applicants must also be registered to practice before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. A demonstrated strong, recent, and relevant technical and legal background in NRL's technical areas and corresponding recent and relevant patent application preparation and patent prosecution experience is required.

Applicants should submit a cover letter explaining their interest in the position; a resume; a listing of state bars of which the applicant is an active member; and the applicant's registration number to practice before the United States Patent and Trademark Office; two recent and relevant legal writing samples (up to fifteen pages each, and excerpts, to avoid exceeding the fifteen page limit, are acceptable); two recent performance appraisals (if available); and the names and telephone numbers of at least three references, including the applicant's current supervisor, who may be contacted as part of the application process (though we will let applicants know before current supervisors would be contacted). Attorneys who graduated from law school after 2014 must submit a law school transcript.

Electronic applications are preferred and may be uploaded and submitted as a single

document at the Box website at <https://tinyurl.com/s3hu33q>.

Hard copy applications may be sent to the following address:

Mr. Kerry Broome  
Code 1008.2  
Naval Research Laboratory  
4555 Overlook Avenue S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20375-5320  
Email: [kerry.broome@nrl.navy.mil](mailto:kerry.broome@nrl.navy.mil)

If you wish to apply via hard copy, NRL recommends sending applications by commercial overnight delivery service (such as Federal Express) as NRL US Postal Service mail currently encounters delays due to screening and handling. Facsimiles will not be accepted.

This personnel notice will close on September 14, 2020 at 11:59:59 PM (EST) and applications must be received by this date and time to be considered.

Interested attorneys may contact NRL's Associate Counsel for Intellectual Property, Mr. Kerry Broome at 202-404-1553 or [kerry.broome@nrl.navy.mil](mailto:kerry.broome@nrl.navy.mil) or NRL's Counsel, Mr. James McCutcheon at 202-767-2244 or [james.mccutcheon@nrl.navy.mil](mailto:james.mccutcheon@nrl.navy.mil).

If the successful applicant is not currently a member of the Department of the Navy Office of the General Counsel, processing of the hiring action can only commence after submission of those items identified in the "Instructions for New OGC Attorneys" (see Careers section of [www.ogc.navy.mil](http://www.ogc.navy.mil)).

#### NOTICE OF VETERANS' PREFERENCE

There is no formal rating system for applying veterans' preference to attorney appointments in the excepted service; however, the Department of the Navy Office of the General Counsel considers veterans' preference eligibility a positive factor for attorney hiring. Applicants eligible for veterans' preference must include that information in their cover letter or resume and attach supporting documentation (e.g., DD Form 214, "Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty") to their submissions.

Although the point-preference system is not used, applicants eligible to claim a 10-point preference must submit a Standard Form (SF) 15, "Application for 10-Point Veteran Preference," and supporting documentation required for the specific type of preference claimed. (SF-15, which lists the types of 10-point preference and the required supporting documents, is available from the Office of Personnel Management Website at [www.opm.gov](http://www.opm.gov).)

Not all veterans are preference eligible. For a summary of time periods, campaigns, and conditions that entitle an applicant to preference eligibility, please visit <https://www.fedshirevets.gov/index.aspx>, <https://www.usajobs.gov/Help/working-in-government/unique-hiring-paths/veterans>, and see the Veterans' Preference Advisor,

operated by the Department of Labor at <http://www.dol.gov/elaws/vets/vetpref/vetspref.htm>.

The United States Government does not discriminate in employment on the basis of race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy or gender identity), national origin, political affiliation, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, genetic information, age, membership in an employee organization, retaliation, parental status, military service, or other non-merit factor.

Reasonable Accommodation Links:

<https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/disability-employment/reasonable-accommodations/>

<https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/disability-employment/hiring/#url=Schedule-A-Hiring-Authority>

Legal and Regulatory Guidance Links:

Financial suitability Link:

<https://www.usajobs.gov/Help/working-in-government/fair-and-transparent/financial-suitability/>

Social security number request Link:

<https://www.usajobs.gov/Help/working-in-government/fair-and-transparent/social-security-number/>

Privacy Act Link:

<https://www.usajobs.gov/Help/working-in-government/fair-and-transparent/privacy-act/>

Signature and false statements Link:

<https://www.usajobs.gov/Help/working-in-government/fair-and-transparent/signature-false-statements/>

Selective Service Link:

<https://www.usajobs.gov/Help/working-in-government/fair-and-transparent/selective-service/>

New employee probationary period Link:

<https://www.usajobs.gov/Help/working-in-government/fair-and-transparent/probationary-period/>

Relocation expenses may be paid, but are not guaranteed. If relocation expenses are a requirement, the applicant should state their requirement for this expense in the application package.

Permanent Change of Station (PCS) funding may be available to those eligible.